

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4163

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2584

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL ZAMBIAN COMMENTS ON MEETING OF FRONTLINE
PRESIDENTS

REF: (A) LUSAKA 2581, (B) STATE 239446

1. IN DELIVERING THE SECRETARY'S MOST RECENT LETTER, I HAD
AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH MARK CHONA THE WEEK-END'S
PRESIDENTS' MEETING. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME FURTHER REACTIONS
TO THOSE GIVEN ME BY PRES KAUNDA LAST NIGHT.

2. THE GENERAL SPIRIT HERE IS ONE OF EXHILARATION. THEY
WERE IMPRESSED BY THE SPEED WITH WHICH THEY WERE ABLE TO
REPLY TO SMITH'S SPEECH AS WELL AS BY OUR PRESS STATEMENT
WELCOMING THE PRESIDENTS' COMMUNIQUE. EVERYONE FEELS THEY
ARE NOW ON THE ROAD TO A SOLUTION. THIS ATTITUDE EXTENDS
TO THE OTHER PRESIDENTS AS WELL AS TO THE ZAMBIANS. AS A
MATTER OF FACT, CHONA SAID, ONE OF THE MORE ENCOURAGING
ASPECTS OF THE PROGRESS SO FAR IS THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE
COOPERATION OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTS. ALL APPRECIATED THAT
A REAL BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN MADE. CHONA SAID THAT WHEN
MACHEL GREETED HIM, HE LAUGHINGLY SAID IT LOOKED AS IF THEY
WOULD BE OUT OF A JOB INSOFAR AS CONTACTS WITH FREEDOM
FIGHTERS WERE CONCERNED. CHONA CLEARLY HOPES THAT THE
SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND SACRIFICE OF INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS

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FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD WILL SHOWN ON RHODESIAN MATTERS

CONTINUE AND EXTEND INTO OTHER AREAS.

3. CHONA WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE ABILITY OF THE FIVE TO FOCUS ON ONE SPECIFIC ISSUE (RHODESIA) AND MOVE THAT FORWARD RATHER THAN GET LOST IN GENERALITIES OR A MULTIPLICITY OF PROBLEMS. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT NAMIBIA, HE SAID THE DISCUSSION HAD BEEN CONFINED TO A BRIEFING OF THE OTHERS BY PRES KAUNDA. THE GROUP APPEARED SATISFIED WITH THE BRIEFING AND WAS SIMPLY AWAITING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS (I.E., OFFICIAL ACT BY THE WINDHOEK CONFERENCE ON OCT 5).

4. ON THE MATTER OF A VENUE FOR THE CONFERENCE MENTIONED IN THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, CHONA SAID THAT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD SUGGESTED LAST NIGHT THAT THE CONFERENCE BE HELD IN LUSAKA BECAUSE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND PARTICULARLY COMMUNICATIONS WHICH CAN BE PROVIDED BY THE HIGH COMMISSION. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT HE WAS QUITE WILLING TO HAVE IT IN LUSAKA OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN ZAMBIA THAT THE PARTIES AGREED ON.

5. THE BRITISH HAD ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE ZAMBIANS WOULD REQUEST OBSERVER STATUS AT THE CONFERENCE. THEY REPLIED THAT THEY, LIKE THE AMERICANS, WERE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE AND OFFER ADVICE WHEN NEEDED BUT THEY DID NOT ENVISION THEMSELVES TAKING A FORMAL ROLE AS PARTICIPANT OR OBSERVER IN THE CONFERENCE.

6. CHONA AND THE PRESIDENT ARE WORKING ON A RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S LETTERS WHICH SHOULD BE READY BEFORE THEY DEPART FOR GABORONE TUESDAY MORNING.

6. REQUEST DEPT PASS MAPUTO, DAJ, AND GABORONE FOR SCHAUFLE.

LOW

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